

FILER STUDENT FARM HOUSE

AL-V-A-051

Blaen Avon Road, Midlothian  
1897

The Filer Farm House was built in 1897 by Benjamin Filer as a subsistence type of farm. The house is typical of the style of frame houses found in Alleghany County being two story, three bays wide and "T" or "L" shaped. Filer purchased the property from Alexander Shaw, a wealthy land owner and owner of the "Shaw Mansion" on Route 220 South. The house remains virtually the same as it was eighty years ago with the spring-house serving as a water supply and cooling facility.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0102465604  
AL-V-A-051

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Student Farm House Filer

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Blaer Avon Road off Winebrenner Run Access Road

CITY, TOWN

Midlothian

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Harold L. Filer

Telephone #: 729-3593

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P. O. General Delivery

CITY, TOWN

Rawlings

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

AL-V-A-057

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Student Farm House is located at the end of the Blaen Avon Road in Midlothian, Allegany County.

The Student Farm House is a two story, three bay wide, frame structure that is covered with novelty siding. A shed roof enclosed porch is located on the west side of the building. The entire structure rests on a low stone foundation. The roof is gabled with a boxed cornice and returns and is covered with asphalt roofing material. Windows in the structure are double hung wooden sash frames with one over one lights. Entrances are located on the east and west sides of the house and feature vertically paneled doors with original hardware. The main entrance is covered by a single bay shed roofed entrance porch supported by corbeled stone pillars. Two original corbeled brick chimneys are located in the interior and inside end of the building respectively.

Located close to the main house are two springhouses, both in good condition and a brick outhouse.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES	1897	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Benjamin Filer
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Filer Student Farm House is believed to have been built in 1897 by Benjamin Filer as a subsistence type of farm. Filer purchased the property in 1897 from Alexander Shaw, a wealthy land owner and coal baron who lived in Baltimore and had a summer home along Route 220 South, in Rawlings, AL-VI-B-013.<sup>1</sup> Shaw had previously purchased the property from the Blaen Avon Coal Company; a company in which Shaw is believed to have had a corporate tie. The farm house and property itself has been in the Filer family since construction and retains much of its original appearance. The house being without electricity and running water allows the importance of its outbuilding to become apparent. Springhouses located along the southern side of the house provide water and a cooling place for perishables.

The house being in fair condition and having retained most of its original appearance, remains an architectural document of a way of life once found in rural areas of Allegany County.

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1 Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AL-V-A-051

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24.5 acres

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

12/8/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale.

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO. A1-U-A-051

361/504

DATE: 11/19/76

24.5 Acres

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Student Farm HouseLOCATION OF PROPERTY: Blaen Avon Road  
off Wm. Brenner Run Access Rd.DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: EastNAME OF OWNER: Harold L. Filer

729-3593

ADDRESS: P.O. General Delivery  
Rawlings, MD 21557STORIES: 1( ) 2(☒) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3(☒) 4( ) 5(☒) 6( ) 7( ) ( )WINGS, ADDITIONS: shed roof enclosed porchDwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular) ☒ "T" shaped

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- ☒ FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)  
( ) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.  
( ) STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
( ) LOG  
( ) Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS \_\_\_\_\_

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2(☒) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
pegged ( ) nailed(☒) wide (☒) narrow ( ) mitred ( ) pediment ( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

HARDWARE: original(☒) replaced( )

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal BoardsCORNICHE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original( ) replaced( ) Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,

Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, HANGARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, FORMERS # \_\_\_\_\_MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original( ) replaced( )PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(☒) hip( ) gable( )CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 2 BRICK(☒) STONE( ) CORNELED(☒) original(☒) replaced( )LOCATION: Flush end( ) Inside end(☒) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior(☒)

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - APP.Significance - ArchDate Constructed - 1897Condition - Fair

TITLE SEARCH

Student Farm

Allegany County Deed; Liber 361, Folio 504

grantee: Harold L. Filer

grantor: Horace P. Whitworth, Trustee

September 7, 1961

(Harold was willed the house on February 27, 1959 in Will Liber 1,  
Folio 566, 24 acres)

Allegany County Deed; Liber 174, Folio 578

grantee: Benjamin C. Filer, et. ux.

grantor: Benjamin Filer, et. ux.

May 4, 1936

22½ acres

Allegany County Deed; Liber 81, Folio 599

grantee: Benjamin Filer

grantor: Alexander Shaw

February 4, 1897

Consideration: \$1,000.00

Allegany County Deed; Liber 79, Folio 5

grantee: Alexander Shaw

grantor: Blaen Avon Coal Company

May 18, 1896

Consideration: \$1,5000.00

(By mortgage)

Student Farm House

AI-V-A-051

1.1 mile NW of Midlothian

Frostburg, MD.-PA.

1:24,000

1949

AI-V-A-050

AI-V-A-051

AI-V-A-001

AI-V-A-011

AI-V-A-03

AI-V-A-033

SECTION VII

FROSTBURG

(Separate Map)

Midlothian

AI-V-A-049

AI-V-A-043

AI-V-A-040

AI-V-A-045

AI-V-A-052

AI-V-A-048

AI-V-A-046

AI-V-A-042

AI-V-A-024

AI-V-A-047

AI-V-A-044

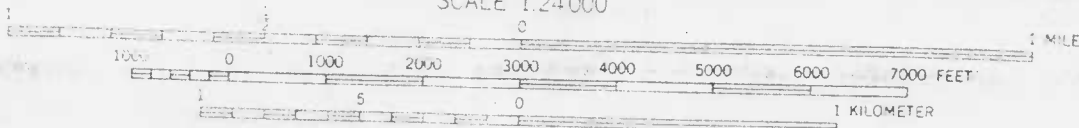
AI-V-A-041

AI-V-A-01

AI-V-A-039

HISTORIC SITES DISTRIBUTION

SCALE 1:24,000



● = SIT





A1-V-A-051

Student Farm

Blaze Avon Road

Midlothian

John Nelson

11/19/76

newhousest



A1-V-A-051

Student Farm - Filer

Blasyn Aven Rd.

midlothian

Gunn Nelson

11/19/76

Southwest